

both during cool windy weather with sunny periods, when the temperature hardly crept above 13°C. even in full sunshine, on each occasion vibrating commenced shortly after the sun had emerged from behind a cloud and lasted for 10-15 seconds.

The first time I witnessed this behaviour (15th April, 1977) the butterfly had chosen the underside of a *Corylus avellana* (Hazel) leaf about 9in. from the ground and due to considerable fluttering caused by the wind I was not too certain which vibrations were caused by the wind and which by the insect itself. On the second occasion (5th May, 1980) the brimstone, a male, settled on the underside of a *Verbascum thapus* (Great Mullien) leaf, a much firmer anchorage, and I was able to observe the leading edge of both forewings vibrate quite rapidly.

This does seem a logical method of raising body temperature when heat absorption is not available; has anyone similar observations? — C. J. TUBB, 19 Penny's Lane, Fordingbridge, Hants. SP6 1HQ.

AN EARLY RECORD OF VANESSA ATALANTA (L.) IN CUMBRIA. — In the afternoon of 19th April, 1980 my wife drew my attention to a Red Admiral flying in the sunshine here at Kendal Wood. The specimen was flying in the drive to my house, occasionally settling when it was seen to be in a very worn condition. There are only a few April records for this species in Cumbria. The late Dr. R. C. Lowther of Grange-over-Sands kept detailed phenological records for many years and I note from these that *V. atalanta* occurred in the early part of the year on only four occasions between 1920 and 1949. The earliest of these concerned a specimen at Arnside on 25th March, 1949.

These early records occasion the thought that *V. atalanta* may at times hibernate in this country even so far north as Cumbria. Last winter was generally a very mild one which may be significant in the present occurrence. — Dr. NEVILLE L. BIRKETT, Kendal Wood, New Hutton, Cumbria LA8 0AQ.

A SECOND BRITISH SPECIMEN OF LAMPRONIA FLAVIMITRELLA HUEBNER (LEP.: INCURVARIIDAE). — On the 24th May, 1980, at about 7.30 p.m., I netted an incurvariid of unfamiliar appearance in one of the clearings in Hoads Wood near Ashford, Kent. On returning home, further examination showed it was probably referable to *L. flavimitrella*, a species only once before taken in Britain. I have since submitted the specimen to Dr. J. D. Bradley, who has kindly confirmed the determination. My example, a female of wing expanse 16 mm, has the two transverse bands on forewing uninterrupted. The first British *flavimitrella*, a male, was taken by the late Denzil Ffennell in his garden at Martyr Worthy, Hants., on the 18th May, 1974, and recorded by him in *Ent. Gaz.*, 28:180-182. — J. M. CHALMERS-HUNT.

ABNORMAL ABUNDANCE OF THE COMMA: POLYGONIA C-ALBUM L. IN KENT. — At Brookland, Romney Marsh, in a lane coming from the direction of Lydd, on the 5th August, 1979, I saw more than 70 of this butterfly at bramble flowers,